

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-08

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 IO-06 NSCE-00 SP-02 INR-05
CIAE-00 NSAE-00 EB-04 OMB-01 TRSE-00 ACDA-10 HA-02
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R 191443Z NOV 77
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8591
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 ROME 18975

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, ENRG, SHUM, IT, YO, UR, SF
SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR YOUNG'S MEETING WITH ITALIAN FOREIGN MINISTER

1. SUMMARY: AMBASSADOR YOUNG MET WITH FOREIGN MINISTER FORLANI FOR GENERAL FOREIGN POLICY DISCUSSION NOV. 15. IN COURSE OF TALK AMBASSADOR YOUNG ASKED ITALIAN HELP IN INFLUENCING ARABS TO KEEP OIL PRICES DOWN. FORLANI CONVEYED FAVORABLE YUGOSLAV ASSESSMENT OF US-YUGOSLAV RELATIONS, EXPRESSED DOUBTS ABOUT ANY REAL MOVEMENT IN THE SOVIET
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UNION IN FIELD OF HUMAN RIGHTS, EXPRESSED SUPPORT OF U.S. INITIATIVES IN AFRICA, AND DESCRIBED CHANGED WORLD ATTITUDE TOWARD U.S. END SUMMARY.

2. AMBASSADOR YOUNG, ACCCOMPANIED BY AMBASSADOR GARDNER, MET WITH ITALIAN FOREIGN MINISTER FORLANI ON NOV. 15. TOPICS DISCUSSED INCLUDED THE FOLLOWING:

3. U.S. FOREIGN POLICY: AMBASSADOR YOUNG EXPLAINED
CARTER ADMINISTRATION APPROACH TO FOREIGN POLICY WHICH
INVOLVED EFFORTS TO ADDRESS ALL MAJOR PROBLEMS WITHOUT
SHUNTING ANY TO THE SIDE. WE HOPE THAT GAINS IN
INDIVIDUAL AREAS, SUCH AS SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION TO SALT
NEGOTIATIONS OR TO PROCESS OF PANAMA CANAL TREATY
RATIFICATION, WILL HAVE A FAVORABLE DOMINO EFFECT AND
BRING ABOUT A MARKED IMPROVEMENT OVERALL IN INTERNATIONAL
RELATIONS THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION IS AT ONLY THE
BEGINNING OF ITS TENURE AND IS TRYING TO LISTEN MORE THAN
TALK, TO ELICIT COOPERATION RATHER THAN IMPOSE SOLUTIONS.
FORLANI AGREED THAT THIS CONSTRUCTIVE ATTITUDE MOST
LIKELY TO PRODUCE POSITIVE RESULTS. HE SENSED AN
IMPORTANT PSYCHOLOGICAL CHANGE IN THE WORLD'S ATTITUDE
TOWARD THE U.S. WHICH GAVE WIDE POSSIBILITIES OF MOVEMENT
AND IMPROVEMENT THAT DID NOT EXIST BEFORE.

4. MIDDLE EAST AND OIL PRICES: FORLANI EXPRESSED CONCERN
ABOUT SIOFATION IN MIDDLE EAST AND PARTICULARLY ABOUT
LACK OF PLAN FOR PALESTINIAN HOMELAND. HE WAS WORRED THAT
SADAT'S FAILURE TO COORDINATE WITH OTHER ARAB LEADERS
HIS PLAN TO VISIT ISRAEL WOULD PROVOKE HOSTILE
REACTIONS. GOI IS ALSO CONCERNED ABOUT POSSIBLE OIL
PRICE INCREASES, WHICH WOULD HAVE SERIOUS EFFECT ON
ITALIAN ECONOMY. AMBASSADOR YOUNG ASKED THAT
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ITALY USE ITS INFLUENCE WITH LIBYA AND OTHER ARAB
COUNTRIES TO KEEP OIL PRICES STABLE. AMBASSADOR GARDNER
REITERATED IMPORTANCE GIVEN BY SECRETARY VANCE TO
COORDINATED EFFORT TO KEEP OIL PRICES DOWN.

5. YUGOSLAVIA: FORLANI CONVEYED TO AMBASSADOR YOUNG
THE GREETINGS OF YUGOSLAV FOREIGN MINISTER MINIC WHO WAS
PAYING AN OFFICIAL VISIT TO ITALY THAT DAY. MINIC HAD
DESCRIBED SECRETARY BLUMENTHAL'S RECENT VISIT TO BELGRADE
IN VERY FAVORABLE TERMS AND HAD SAID THAT US-YUGOSLAV
RELATIONS HAD NOT BEEN SO FRIENDLY IN MANY YEARS. MINIC
HAD ALSO TOLD ITALIANS THAT HE, AND TITO, WERE WORRIED
ABOUT SITUATIONS IN MIDDLE EAST, HORN OF AFRICA, AND
SOUTH AFRICA.

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6. RELATIONS WITH USSR: FORLANI EXPRESSED HOPE THAT RESUMED US-USSR DISCUSSIONS ON SALT WILL FAVORABLY INFLUENCE OTHER EAST-WEST NEGOTIATIONS. WHILE HE FELT THAT BELGRADE CONFERENCE HAD STARTED BADLY, HE NOW FOUND A CONSTRUCTIVE SPIRIT IN THE RENEWED DIALOGUE. NEVERTHELESS FORLANI SAW LITTLE HOPE FOR CHANGE IN THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN THE SOVIET UNION. WHEN HE VISITED MOSCOW IN JANUARY HE FOUND BREZHNEV AND GROMYKO OPEN AND FRIENDLY ON ALL MATTERS RAISED--INCLUDING COOPERATION WITH EUROPE AND RELATIONS WITH THE US--BUT WHEN SUBJECT OF

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HELSINKI AND BASKET III CAME UP, REACTION WAS ALMOST VIOLENT.

7. SOUTH AFRICA: AMBASSADOR YOUNG DESCRIBED IN GENERAL TERMS STATE OF PLAY ON SOUTH AFRICA AND NAMIBIA. FORLANI DESCRIBED SOUTH AFRICANS AS "HARD PEOPLE" SAYING THAT IT IS MORE IMPORTANT TO WATCH FOR PRIVATE

SIGNALS THAN TO LISTEN TO PUBLIC STATEMENTS. IT IS
IMPORTANT TO CONTINUE TO APPLY STRONG PRESSURE ON THEM
BUT ALSO TO CONVEY TO THEM THE FEELING THAT WESTERN
EUROPEANS AND AMERICANS WANT TO HELP THEM FIND A SOLUTION.
FORLANI THOUGHT THAT THE BETTER-EDUCATED WHITES RECOGNIZE
THAT THE SYSTEM MUST CHANGE. THE EC CODE OF CONDUCT FOR
BUSINESSES OPERATING IN SOUTH AFRICA CAN BE THE FIRST IN
A SERIES OF INITIATIVES WHICH WOULD EXERT CONTINUING BUT
NOT DISRUPTING PRESSURE ON THE GOVERNMENT. WHILE ITALY
INTENDS TO CARRY OUT ARMS EMBARGO, FORLANI EXPRESSED
CONCERN ABOUT THE DIFFICULTIES IN CONTROLLING THE ARMS
TRAFFIC. HE ADDED THAT HE THOUGHT DECISIVE INFLUENCE IN
AFRICA HAD TO COME FROM THE U.S. AND THAT OTHER COUNTRIES
SHOULD SUPPORT U.S. INITIATIVES. GARDNER

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